

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 06021 111857Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 /050 W
-----053875 111900Z /64

O R 111815Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6691
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BEL
COMUSFORAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PORG PO
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT CRISIS: NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS

REF: LISBON 5533

1. THE PROCESS: PRESIDENT EANES, AUGUST 9, DESIGNATED
NOBRE DA COSTA AS PRIME MINISTER. EANES WILL NOT OFFICIALLY
APPOINT HIM UNTIL NOBRE DA COSTA HAS CHOSEN HIS CABINET,
AND IS PREPARED TO PRESENT A PROGRAM TO THE ASSEMBLY
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WITHIN THE CONSTITUTIONALLY PRESCRIBED PERIOD OF TEN DAYS.
FOLLOWING THE FORMAL APPOINTMENT, THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WILL BE CALLED INTO SPECIAL SESSION
AND WILL HAVE FIVE DAYS TO DEBATE THE PROPOSED PROGRAM.
UNLESS A MOTION OF REJECTION IS PRESENTED AND APPROVED BY
AN ASSEMBLY MAJORITY, THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM IS AUTOMATICALLY
APPROVED. IF A MOTION OF REJECTION IS PASSED, PRESIDENT

EANES HAS SAID HE WILL DISSOLVE THE ASSEMBLY AND HOLD NEW ELECTIONS WITHIN 90 DAYS. THESE ELECTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE HELD UNDER THE OUTDATED ELECTION LAW AND VOTER REGISTRATION LISTS.

2. IF PROGRAM APPROVED: FOLLOWING ASSEMBLY APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM, THE ASSEMBLY WOULD BE ASKED TO PASS A NEW REGISTRATION LAW AND A NEW ELECTORAL LAW. ELECTION EXPERTS SAY THAT THE VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATE WOULD TAKE FOUR AND ONE-HALF MONTHS AFTER PASSAGE OF THE LAW. THIS DONE, EANES AND NOBRE DA COSTA BOTH HAVE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD PRESENT A MOTION OF CONFIDENCE TO THE ASSEMBLY. IF THE ASSEMBLY WERE TO REJECT THE MOTION OF CONFIDENCE, NEW ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD WITHIN 90 DAYS. IF, HOWEVER, THE MOTION OF CONFIDENCE SHOULD PASS, THE GOVERNMENT THEORETICALLY COULD REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL 1980 WHEN NATIONAL ELECTIONS MUST BE HELD.

3. EARLY SIGNS: NOBRE DA COSTA'S EARLY STATEMENTS INDICATE HE WOULD PREFER AN ACTIVIST GOVERNMENT WHICH IS PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE COUNTRY'S TOUGH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, RATHER THAN MERELY PRESIDE OVER A GOVERNMENT WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE IS TO PREPARE THE COUNTRY FOR NEW ELECTIONS. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MOVE AS FAST AS POSSIBLE, BUT HAS INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NOT FORM A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT SOLID ASSEMBLY SUPPORT. HE INITIATED MEETINGS WITH THE PSD, PCP, AND UDP AUGUST 10, AND THE PS AND CDS AUGUST 11, TO DETERMINE PARTY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATTITUDES TOWARD SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE SEARCH FOR CABINET MEMBERS.
ROWELL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: CABINET, POLITICAL SITUATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNMENT CRISIS: NEXT STEPS IN THE PROCESS
TAGS: PINT, PORG, PO, (NOBRE DA COSTA, ALFREDO JORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e0d6f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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